

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The head box 22 used here can be a cross-flow distributor with a diffuser block and a perforated roll to break up the flocks forming in the suspension. The bottom wire 10 runs through the entire plant in an essentially horizontal position. A wedge 17 is formed in the first dewatering zone 9 together with the top wire 11. The wires 10, 11 run over perforated plates 18 here made of plastic or steel. As an alternative, foil strips or table rolls can be used. The gap height can be set at the end 19 of the wedge zone 17 or the wedge zone 17 can be pressure-loaded by the pressure loading apparatus 30. A roll 20, driving against the top wire 11, forms the end of the wedge zone. At the dewatering zone 12, a further headbox 23 can be provided for a top layer. In order to dewater the top layer, a further top wire 14 is provided. Dewatering is assisted by extraction using vacuum (through boxes 13). The top wire 14 and the bottom wire 10 form a further wedge zone 21, which is also adjustable and can be designed for pressure-loading at the end of the zone if necessary. In order to increase the final dry content, the press zone 15 contains two to six, preferably three to five, press nips, i.e. pairs of rolls pressed against one another. The present example shows four such roll pairs 16 which form press nips. A plant of this type has an overall length of approximately 11.5 m for a throughput of approximately 320 tonnes/day, i.e. although production is increased by approximately 80%, only some 80% of the length required in a state-of-the part plant is needed here. This provides a specific output of approximately 220% compared with state-of-the-art plants.--